

## REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 16-20, and 22-28 were rejected under §103 based on Field (US 4,636,412) in view of Ohodaira et al. (US 4,482,585). Claims 6 and 21 were rejected as obvious based on Field in view of Ohodaira and further in view of Kong (US 6,253,936).

Applicant maintains that Ohodaira does not disclose a fluorinated rubber composite including at least one reinforcement layer, and that the claims distinguish from the applied references. Applicant incorporates herein all the arguments made in the previous response. However, in the interest of compact prosecution, all independent claims have been amended to recite that the inner layer comprises polyurethane, which finds support inter alia in original claims 3, 18, 24, and 28.

With respect to claims 3 and 24, the examiner stated that “Field substantially discloses an apparatus wherein the inner layer is made of thermoplastic polyurethane (see col. 3 lines 50-55).” This passage reads:

*In the example illustrated walls 1 are made from a linear low density polyethylene (“LLDPE”) 40 microns thick and an outer layer 12 of biaxially oriented nylon 18 microns thick. Intermediate the inner and outer layer is a layer of high density polyethylene (“HDPE”) 60 microns thick.*

As can be seen there is simply no mention whatsoever of polyurethane in this passage. Based on a word search online from the PTO website, it is submitted that the term “polyurethane” does not appear in Field. Hence, the examiner’s rationale for this ground of rejection is erroneous.

In the event that the examiner mistakenly cited Field, review of Ohodaira finds that at col. 3, lines 50-55, polyurethane is mentioned – as an adhesive – along with other reaction-curing adhesives such as polyester and epoxy. “Polyurethane-type” adhesive is also disclosed in claim 5. The adhesive is used to bond the inner and outer layers. Thus, the polyurethane adhesive does not constitute an inner layer and is not expressly stated to be thermoplastic, as is claimed.

It can be seen that neither Field nor Ohodaira do not, either alone or in combination, render the pending claims obvious.

Kong is not cited for a polyurethane inner layer.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that in view of the comments above, all grounds of rejection should be withdrawn.

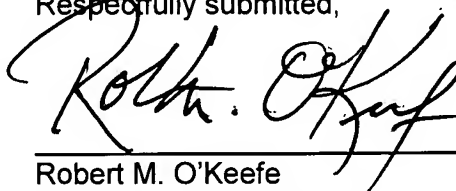
#### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

A three-month extension of time is submitted herewith. If the extension is missing, please consider this paper to be a request for such extension and deduct any required fee from deposit account 10-1205/TRIA:005.

Should any fees under 37 CRF 1.16-1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205/TRIA:005. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. O'Keefe", written over a horizontal line.

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